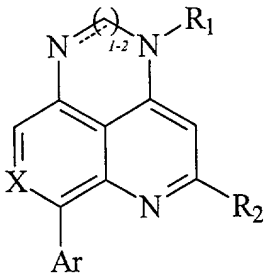
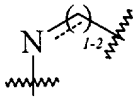
CLAIMS

1. A compound having the following structure:



including stereoisomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein:



represents -N=CH-, -NH-CH_2- or -NH-$(CH_2)_2$-;

X is N or CR_3;

R_1 is -$CH(R_4)(R_5)$;

R_2 is C_{1-6}alkyl;

R_3 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R_4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, mono- or di(C_{3-6}cycloalkyl)methyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{3-6}alkenyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, or C_{1-6}alkyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, and

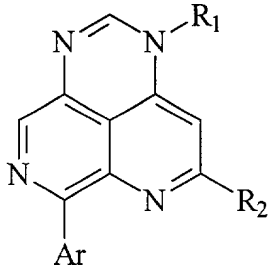
R_5 is C_{1-8}alkyl, mono- or di(C_{3-6}cycloalkyl)methyl, Ar^1CH_2, C_{3-6}alkenyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, thienylmethyl, furanylmethyl, C_{1-6}alkylthioC_{1-6}alkyl, morpholinyl, mono- or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonylC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with imidazolyl, or a radical of the formula -(C_{1-6}alkanediyl)-O-CO-Ar^1,

or R_4 and R_5 taken together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded form a C_{5-8}cycloalkyl optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl;

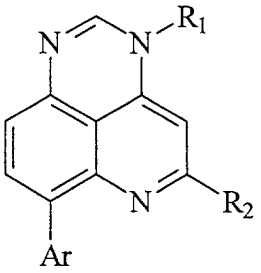
Ar is phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, trifluoromethyl, cyano, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, benzyloxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, nitro, amino, and mono- or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino; or an aromatic C_{3-12}heterocycle optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, cyano, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, benzyloxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, and piperidinyl; and

Ar^1 is phenyl, pyridinyl, or phenyl substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, di(C_{1-6}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, trifluoromethyl and C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with morpholinyl.

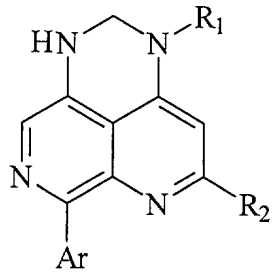
2. The compound of claim 1 having the structure:



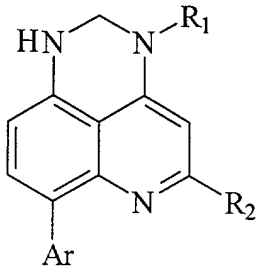
3. The compound of claim 1 having the structure:



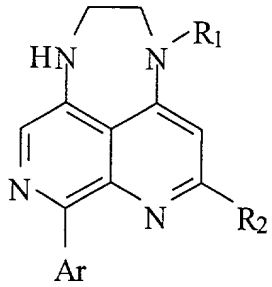
4. The compound of claim 1 having the structure:



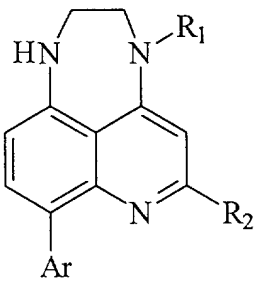
5. The compound of claim 1 having the structure:



6. The compound of claim 1 having the structure:



7. The compound of claim 1 having the structure:



8. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2,4-dichlorophenyl.

9. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2-chloro-4-methyl-phenyl.

10. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2-methyl-4-chloro-phenyl.

11. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2,4,6-trimethyl-phenyl.

12. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2-chloro-4-methoxy-phenyl.

13. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2-methyl-4-methoxy-phenyl.

14. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 2,4-dimethoxy-phenyl.

15. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 4-dimethylamino-2-methyl-3-pyridyl.

16. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 4-dimethylamino-6-methyl-3-pyridyl.

17. The compound of claim 1 wherein Ar is 4-dimethylamino-3-pyridyl.

18. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(n-propyl)$_2$.

19. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(n-propyl)(CH_2OCH_3).

20. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(benzyl)(CH_2OCH_3).

21. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(CH_2OR)$_2$ and each occurrence of R is independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl.

22. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(CH_2OR)(ethyl) and each occurrence of R is independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl.

23. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(CH_2OR)(n-butyl) and each occurrence of R is independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl.

24. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(CH_2OR)(tert-butyl) and each occurrence of R is independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl.

25. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(CH_2OR)(4-chloro-benzyl) and each occurrence of R is independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl.

26. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is -CH(CH_2OR)($CH_2CH_2SCH_3$) and each occurrence of R is independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl.

27. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 -CH(CH_2CH_3)(CH_2Obenzyl).

28. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is methyl.

29. The compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is ethyl.

30. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

31. A method for treating a disorder manifesting hypersecretion of CRF in a warm-blooded animal, comprising administering to the animal an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 30.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the disorder is stroke.

33. The method of claim 31 wherein the disorder is anxiety.

34. The method of claim 31 wherein the disorder is depression.

35. The method of claim 31 wherein the disorder is irritable bowel syndrome.